

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Homer Society of Natural History, dba Pratt Museum****Federal Tax ID: 92-6002856****Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Homer Society of Natural History, dba Pratt Museum - Schematic Design, Museum Expansion

State Funding Requested: \$100,000**House District: 35 / R**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Schematic Design for the Pratt Museum's \$8.5 million capital project to better serve its visitors and its community well into the future.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$8,500,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$810,000	2009			\$1,450,000	2011-2015
State Funds	\$50,000	2010			\$1,000,000	2012-2015
Denali Commission					\$900,000	2012-2015
Rasmuson Foundation					\$1,000,000	2011-2015
Local Funds					\$150,000	2011
Other Funds	\$950,000	2009, 2010			\$2,030,000	2011-2015
Total	\$1,810,000				\$6,530,000	

Explanation of Other Funds:

Secured Community Support: \$600,000 POPS; \$105,000 and \$245,000 Anonymous. Future Need: Paul Allen Fdn, \$250,000; Kresge, \$250,000; Murdoch, \$250,000; Homer Fdn, \$55,000; Wynn Fdn, \$100,000; Ferguson Fdn, \$100,000; Leadership Gifts, \$500,000; Corporate, \$450,000; Special Events, \$75,000. A grant of \$88,625 for planning and \$55,231 of in-kind planning support from the Pre-Development Program of the Rasmuson Foundation and Foraker Group was previously received (not included in this budget).

Detailed Project Description and Justification:**PRATT MUSEUM OVERVIEW:**

The Pratt Museum is a national award-winning institution dedicated to place-based learning in the arts, sciences, and cultures of the Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet region. The Museum is one of only two institutions in Alaska to receive the National Award for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for museums. Considered a leading cultural institution in the state, the Pratt is consistently used as a model among similar institutions across Alaska and the nation. Visitor feedback overwhelmingly reflects a high-quality experience. The numerous prestigious grants and awards the Pratt has received are testaments to its unique position among cultural institutions in Alaska. In 1982, the American Association of Museums accredited the Pratt, which was the first private museum in Alaska to receive this national recognition. The Museum was reaccredited in 1997 and 2008, and today is one of only five accredited museums in Alaska.

The Pratt Museum "is dedicated to the process of education by exploring the natural environment and human experience relative to the Kachemak Bay region of Alaska and its place in the world. The museum seeks to inspire self-reflection and dialogue in its community and visitors through exhibitions, programs, and collections in the arts, sciences, and humanities."

The 9.3-acre site features 10,500 square feet of facility space. It offers permanent, online and traveling exhibits, outdoor exhibits, and meeting space. Collections include archaeological, historical, biological and earth sciences, art, photography, and a reference library. The Pratt Museum's Educational Program encourages life-long learning and understanding of the region's science and culture, reaching learners from pre-school age to senior citizens.

COMMUNITY SERVED:

Each year, the Pratt serves more than 35,000 visitors and engages more than 4,000 students in its programs. The Pratt is an integral part of Alaska's educational infrastructure, filling critical gaps by providing hands-on programs to school groups. These programs help develop skills and knowledge in the sciences, arts, and humanities. The Pratt is an important repository in Alaska for collections that represent the cultural, natural, and historical heritage of South Central Alaska. They are the only substantial collections in the region and are a resource for students, researchers, writers, educators, and the general public. They include archaeological materials that represent Kachemak Bay's earliest inhabitants, historic photographs, oral histories, and community archives. For Alaska residents, the Pratt is an expression of civic and cultural identity. For summer travelers, the Pratt is a highly anticipated destination where they can learn about and explore Alaska.

The Museum is a regional economic engine, according to a 2009 McDowell Group study, "Economic Impact Analysis of the Pratt Museum Renovation and Expansion," generating approximately \$1 million in annual economic activity and drawing visitors to our community from across the state, across the nation and around the world. A source of pride for southern Kenai Peninsula residents, the Pratt has earned broad local, regional, state and national support from its individual members and donors, businesses and corporations, Native organizations, and private foundations.

THE CAPITAL PROJECT:

Currently, the Pratt Museum is located in a 10,500 square foot building that is 43 years old and in need of major repair and equipment upgrades. The Museum's galleries, collections storage, public meeting, and education spaces no longer support the Pratt's goals or embrace current opportunities.

The capital project will transform the visitor experience and enable the Pratt to serve its community and visitors long into the future. Goals of the project include:

- Dedicated education program and community gathering space;
- Implementation of the final phase of Master Exhibit Plan exhibit renovations;
- Site redesign and stewardship to expand outdoor exhibits and fully integrate the Museum into its 9.3-acre green space;
- Expanded collections storage space with state-of-the-art environmental controls;
- Creation of back-of-house support space for research, collections conservation, and exhibit preparation;
- Full Americans with Disability Act compliance;
- Increased building system efficiency for long-term cost savings.

A number of exciting opportunities have occurred over the past several years:

- The Project is included in the City of Homer's Capital Improvement Program 2009-2014.
- The Pratt and its friends group, the Patrons of the Pratt Society (POPS), have secured \$950,000 in community support.
- The Pratt has secured funds to plan and prepare for the project, including a federal 3 to 1 challenge grant of \$750,000 from

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2011 Capital Budget

TPS Report 53655v1

the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal grant of \$60,000 from the USDA, and a state grant of \$50,000 from the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The Pratt was one of only 20 institutions across the country to receive the NEH award, out of 113 candidates. And the Pratt is the second museum in Alaska (after the Anchorage Museum) to receive a prestigious NEH Challenge Grant.

- The Pratt has worked hard over the past 10 years to purchase neighboring parcels, acquiring 9.3 acres of urban green space, all now debt-free.
- The Pratt has worked with its community to carry out major planning initiatives in preparation for this project, including the development of its Master Exhibit Plan, which guides the redesign of the Pratt exhibits and programs.
- The Pratt has developed strong partnerships with the National Park Service and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, expanding the reach of its exhibits and programs.
- A grant of \$88,625 for planning plus \$55,231 in-kind support from the Pre-Development Program of the Rasmuson Foundation and Foraker Group was previously received. NOTE: These in-kind predevelopment funds are not included in the project budget.

THE REQUEST:

A capital grant of \$160,000 from the State of Alaska will provide necessary funding for the Schematic Design of the Museum's Expansion Project. Schematic Design will establish the general scope, conceptual design, scale and relationships among the components of the project. The primary objective will be to arrive at a clearly defined, feasible concept while exploring the most promising alternative design solutions. The Architect will prepare a series of rough plans, or schematics, which will show the general arrangement of rooms and the location of the building on the site. Models and/or illustrations will be prepared to help visualize the project. The Schematic Design is a portion of the Design Phase, totaling \$850,000 or 10% of the Pratt's \$8.5 million capital project. A grant for Schematic Design from the State of Alaska will allow the Museum to maintain project momentum at a critical stage.

TIMELINE July through December 2010

FUNDING REQUEST \$160,000 for Schematic Design

This appropriation may be used to match the above-noted \$750,000 National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant which requires a 3 to 1 non-federal match.

TOTAL COSTS, DESIGN PHASE \$850,000

- Concept: \$20,000
- Schematic: \$160,000*
- Development: \$320,000
- Construction Documents: \$350,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$8,500,000

TOTAL FUNDS SECURED \$1,810,000

\$750,000 National Endowment for the Humanities 3:1 Challenge Grant

\$600,000 Patrons of the Pratt Society

\$350,000 Individual Donors

\$60,000 US Department of Agriculture

\$50,000 State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation

A State of Alaska capital grant of \$160,000 will help the Pratt continue to be an economic engine on the Kenai Peninsula and one of Alaska's leading cultural institutions. This grant will help the Pratt leverage significant additional funding for a capital project that will invigorate the region and transform the Museum.

Project Timeline:

January 2008 to April 2010, Pre-development/Visioning/Capacity Assessment/Community Outreach/Public Meetings, \$88,625 IMLS and \$55,231 in-kind, noted above
April 2010 to April 2012, Design Phase, \$850,000 (includes Schematic Design)*
2014 to 2015, Estimated Time of Construction, \$7.65 million

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Homer Society of Natural History, dba Pratt Museum

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Michele Miller
Address: 3779 Bartlett Street
Homer, AK 99603
Phone Number: (907)435-3343
Email: mmiller@prattmuseum.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Roberts

RESOLUTION 10-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRATT MUSEUM'S LEGISLATIVE GRANT REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000 FOR THE DESIGN PHASE OF THE MUSEUM RENOVATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is a national-award winning museum that serves more than 35,000 visitors and engages more than 4,000 students annually; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt is consistently recognized as one of Alaska's leading cultural institutions and a model among community museums across the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt is the recipient of the Governor's Award for the Humanities and the National Award for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for museums; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt is a regional economic engine, generating about \$1 million in annual economic activity and drawing visitors to our community from across the state, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt is embarking on a capital project to better serve its visitors and the community long into the future by providing new exhibits; full handicap accessibility; expanded research capacity to serve students and scholars; and improved ability to expand and preserve the largest collections in the sciences, arts, and humanities on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt was awarded a Challenge Grant of \$750,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which must be matched three to one with non-federal dollars to leverage these funds; and

WHEREAS, A capital grant of \$160,000 from the State of Alaska will provide necessary funding for the Schematic Design phase of the Pratt Museum's \$8.5 million capital project, enabling the Museum to maintain project momentum at this crucial stage; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum's Renovation Project is included in the City of Homer Capital Improvement Program and the City supports the Pratt Museum with operational and capital project funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby expresses support for the Pratt Museum's legislative grant request in the amount of \$160,000 for the design phase of the Museum Renovation Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 11th day of January, 2010.

CITY OF HOMER


JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR


ATTEST:


JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A



Mission: To promote cooperative economic development that preserves the essence of the community while enhancing the quality of life.

February 5, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton:

The Homer Chamber of Commerce, representing over 500 members, supports the Pratt Museum's request for \$160,000 for schematic design for their capital expansion project. The proposed expansion contains features important to the museum for both local patrons and visitors alike including additional community space, conservation space, ADA accessibility, conservation space, and sustainable building components. This project is well positioned to enable long-term economic stability in the community. We are delighted to fully support this project because of the economic health benefits that will accrue.

The mission of the Homer Chamber of Commerce is to promote cooperative economic development that preserves the essence of the community while enhancing the quality of life. Over 150,000 visitors come to Homer each year and the Pratt Museum is an important part of our visitor industry. The museum also lends its support to a variety of local constituencies such as educational institutions and in other ways such as with after school programs.

Please consider the economic impact that a museum can have on a community such as Homer. The Pratt is an award winning entity that serves a cultural and educational need in Homer and for the Kenai Peninsula. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of the Pratt Museum's request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dauphinais".

Paul Dauphinais
Executive Director



Patrons of the Pratt Society

investing in the past
for generations to come

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

Patrons of the Pratt Society (POPS) is in support of the Pratt Museum's \$160,000 request for schematic design of their capital project.

The purpose of POPS is to raise funds for the Pratt Museum and to exercise the privilege of determining the disbursement of those funds. Our mission is to raise funds for land acquisition and special projects benefiting the Pratt Museum and to act as advocate for the Museum, in Homer and throughout the State of Alaska. Since its inception, POPS has donated more than half a million dollars for Pratt projects.

POPS has granted \$50,000 to the Pratt and pledged an additional \$50,000 for the architectural design. POPS has also committed to the construction portion of the project and has pledged to raise an additional \$500,000 over the next five years in financial support of the project. Patrons of the Pratt Society enthusiastically supports a design which will upgrade storage space, increase space for Museum educational programs and renovate historical and cultural galleries.

POPS is pleased to partner with the Pratt in the challenge that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Rowell, President
Patrons of the Pratt Society

Patrons of the Pratt Society, PO Box 2305, Homer, AK 99603



Kachemak Bay Campus

Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

January 14, 2010

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

As a former director of the Pratt Museum and former executive director of Museums Alaska, I wanted to urge you to support the Pratt Museum's request for \$166,000 for the schematic design for the capital renovation and expansion of the museum. This is an exciting project that is long overdue and an important one not only for the communities of the southern Kenai Peninsula, but for the museum community of Alaska.

The Pratt has a long and distinguished record of producing some of the highest quality educational programs of any museum. The repeated accreditation by the American Association of Museums and the many awards the museum has won over the past 25 years testify to this. The museum has always approached every aspect of its mission with a close eye on the budget, grateful warmth for its many volunteers, and a fierce determination to provide the highest possible value for investment by members, donors, foundations, and public agencies.

Repairs of the museum's facilities have been creatively met over the years, but the time is now long past when the old "band-aid" solutions will suffice. The proposed renovations and repairs are necessary to ensure the continued safety and well-being of the facility, as well as improving the energy efficiencies of the museum.

The renovations and expansion of the educational spaces both within and outside the building are in keeping with expectations by the community. The plans for trails, "community-generated exhibits," restoration and stewardship of the major watershed of Woodard Creek, and much more all reflect the spirit, creativity and mission of the Pratt.

Over these years, the museum's collections and demand for its conservation services have also grown. The importance of this part of the museum's mission cannot be overstated, for the museum is charged with being the repository of the community's heritage, something too precious to be put at risk. The museum has clearly outgrown its facilities and now desperately needs to expand its physical plant and bring the surrounding educational grounds up to full standard of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This, too, is long overdue, with the need for expansion stretching back more than 25 years.

As is well known, the Pratt Museum is a keystone cultural institution and is an inspiration to other museums and cultural centers throughout the state. Its creative programs and dogged determination to provide always the best possible museum services define the institution.

So, again, I support and encourage the Pratt in its efforts to implement long needed renovations and improvements.

Sincerely,

Michael Hawfield
Assistant Professor of History

JANET R. KLEIN
PO BOX 2386, HOMER, ALASKA 99603
PHONE: 235-9025
jrklein@homernet.net

January 16, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

I am delighted to write this letter seeking your support for the Pratt Museum's request for \$160,000 to address obtaining a new schematic design for their future expansion.


For 30 years the museum has been an integral part of my life. I've watched it grow from a relatively small, local museum into a nationally accredited, award-winning institution.

As the decades have passed, the Pratt has strived to remain relevant. For example, in the 1970s and 1980s exhibits about the peopling of Kachemak Bay were presented from a Caucasian and a curatorial perspective; today, similar exhibits are fleshed out and flavored with strong voices from the diverse communities of indigenous residents, cowboys, fishermen, businessmen, and representatives of the many other groups in the region. All work collaboratively to preserve our unique heritage.

As one who writes about the history and archaeology of the bay, I continue to find ideas, information, and inspiration in the Pratt Museum's collections and programs; however, to remain relevant in meeting current community and regional needs, the museum needs to expand. It needs additional collection and library storage spaces, better designed and cohesive exhibit areas, and, equally important, improved access for all peoples. Renovations and expansions not only address such pressing needs as the above but also provide fresh ways to engage community members and museum visitors.

One concept that has never changed: the Pratt remains committed to excellence. I hope that the Legislature will wholeheartedly support this most important step toward the museum's future growth.

Sincerely,


Janet Klein
Historian, Archaeologist



Kachemak Bay Campus

Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

January 13, 2010

Rep. Paul Seaton and Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Seaton and Senator Stevens;

The Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College is pleased to express its support for the Pratt Museum's \$160,000 legislative capital request for schematic design of its facility expansion project. This extensive project will significantly enhance the Pratt's abilities to better serve our community and its numerous visitors. Our anthropology, history, biology, art and other students through our continuing education and post-secondary programs will benefit from the expanded and accessible exhibit renovations, learning space, interpretive trails and collections storage.

The Pratt Museum, a world-class and award-winning museum committed to excellence, has long demonstrated its commitment to community-based programs and professional exhibit planning. This campus's students and faculty have greatly benefited from the Pratt's numerous exhibits and activities over the years and greatly look forward to new and exciting collaborative opportunities that this greatly needed expansion project will provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to enthusiastically recommend your support of funding for schematic design. Your support will be greatly appreciated for years to come.

Sincerely,

Carol Swartz, Campus Director

Nancy Lord
Box 558
Homer, Alaska 99603

(907) 235-8252
nlord@xyz.net

January 15, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
Rep. Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

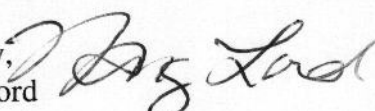
This letter is in support of the Pratt Museum's request to the Alaska Legislature for a capital appropriation of \$160,000 to pay for a schematic design of an expanded museum building.

I have been a member of the Pratt Museum/Homer Society of Natural History since 1973 and consider it an outstanding and essential part of our community. The Pratt is especially impressive in its educational efforts and in representing the history, natural history, and art of our region. I've greatly enjoyed volunteering in different capacities over the years and now serve on the exhibits committee.

I am a writer and the current Alaska Writer Laureate (2008-10). I know that I owe at least some of my success as a writer to the Pratt Museum. My literary writing largely draws upon Alaska's history and natural history, and I have for thirty-six years now made use of the Pratt's exhibits, photo archives, programs, library, and staff expertise. For example, my book about Cook Inlet's beluga whales (*Beluga Days: Tracking a White Whale's Truths*) depended upon beluga materials from the Pratt (articulated skeleton, historic photos, a file of materials in the library as well as whale and whaling books.) I also once participated in an archeological dig sponsored by the museum, and a carved beluga tooth I unearthed in that endeavor (now in the Pratt's collection) helped spark my initial interest in the subject of belugas and their place in local culture.

I would especially like to see the Pratt expand in a way that allows for more programming and educational opportunities. As you well know, presentations at the Pratt now are limited to a cramped space in the basement or an exhibit gallery where people stand or sit on the floor—not an ideal situation, especially for our older people. We're short of gathering spaces in our community generally, and I know that a meeting room at the museum would be well used and appreciated—and would allow the Pratt to fulfill its mission even better.

I look forward to being involved in the Pratt's future growth and to its continued contributions to the lives of our residents, students, artists of all kinds, and visitors.

Sincerely, 
Nancy Lord



KENAITZE
INDIAN
TRIBE

WWW.KENAITZE.ORG

PHONE: (907) 283-3633 • FAX: (907) 283-3052

P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611

April 13, 2009

Heather Beggs, Museum Director
Pratt Museum
3779 Bartlett Street
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Ms. Beggs;

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Cultural and Educational Department works to promote cultural education opportunities through youth programs, camps and interpretation of important cultural and natural resources for our Tribal members, our community members and the public.

I'm writing to express my excitement and support for the Pratt Museum's upcoming expansion project, particularly your improvements to your collections storage space and renovation of galleries to support long-term care of cultural collections and continued development of cultural exhibits and programs.

As you know, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service placed objects collected from the Sqilantnu Archaeological District in Cooper Landing at the Pratt Museum for long term storage and curation. This collection is vital to our tribal efforts to preserve, protect, and present our Kenaitze Dena'ina culture and traditions. Many of the objects were collected by our youth at Susten Camp over a period of 14 years, forging strong connections between our past and future.

We chose to place the collection at the Pratt Museum for several reasons. The first is the fact that the Pratt is the only accredited museum with excellent standards for curation and conservation easily accessible by our tribal members and staff. The second is the fact that the staff at the Pratt Museum are respectful and honor our cultural perspective. Third, we are active participants in the design and implementation of exhibits that feature Kenaitze Dena'ina culture and benefit all learners and visitors.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe values and appreciates the Pratt Museum, a relationship based on mutual trust and appreciation and a shared mission of excellence in education and programming.

Sincerely,

Alexandra M. Lindgren
Cultural & Educational Director
Kenaitze Indian Tribe



Kenai Peninsula College

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Feb. 1, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

This is a letter in support of the Pratt Museum's upcoming institutional development project. As the director of Kenai Peninsula College with a campus in Homer, Soldotna and extension sites in Seward and Anchorage, I am very aware of the great work and wonderful partnership the Pratt has had with the college over the years and believe that this project will provide invaluable benefits to the college and its students.

As I understand it, the renovation and expansion project will preserve collections, enhance educational opportunities, and increase scholarship and learning about the Kachemak Bay region. This work will improve the ways that KPC students can access cultural and natural history collections and enhance the educational opportunities for students, Kenai Peninsula residents and the thousands of visitors the Pratt hosts each year. These opportunities could open the door to internships for our students, new research projects to uncover the region's rich cultural history and improved interpretive programs.

The opportunities above are just a few that may be realized as the Pratt realizes its ambitious goals. The Pratt Museum has the full support of the college in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Turner
Director/CEO

Kenai River Campus - 156 College Road - Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Kachemak Bay Campus - 533 East Pioneer Ave - Homer, Alaska 99603

Anchorage Extension Site 3901 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 118 - Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Resurrection Bay Extension Site - P.O. Box 1049 - Seward, Alaska 99664



Homer High School Mariners

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

D. Allan Gee, Ed.D., Principal
David Larson, Assistant Principal
Mickey Todd, Athletic Director
Cindy Koplin, Head Secretary

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

February 1, 2010

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

I am writing to express my support of the Pratt Museum's \$160,000 request to the State of Alaska for the schematic design of their capital project.

Having been a Homer resident for only six months, I have quickly learned the important role, and the worthwhile contribution, that our Pratt Museum demonstrates through its wonderful exhibits as well as their community outreach through enriching lessons that provide an opportunity for our students to learn about the history of the Kachemak Bay region.

It was with great admiration that I learned of their having been awarded the \$750,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This recognition speaks to the national respect that has been garnered by the Pratt Museum as it continues its focus on the arts, sciences, and humanities of the Kenai Peninsula.

It is without reservation that I support their request and I eagerly look forward to the day when the ribbon-cutting ceremony opens the doors to even more opportunities for our children to learn and grow from our Pratt Museum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Allan Gee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Allan Gee

Dear Pratt Museum Staff,

I loved all the artifacts in your museum. The Marine Gallery was so cool even the birds. The questions were a little hard but I liked them. The movie we all watched was very amusing. I also liked the dancing. I liked the first gallery and the second gallery. Finding things in the museum was really fun. Thankyou for taking us all around the museum and teaching us all about Alaska.

Sincerely,
Tina

Dear pratt museum,

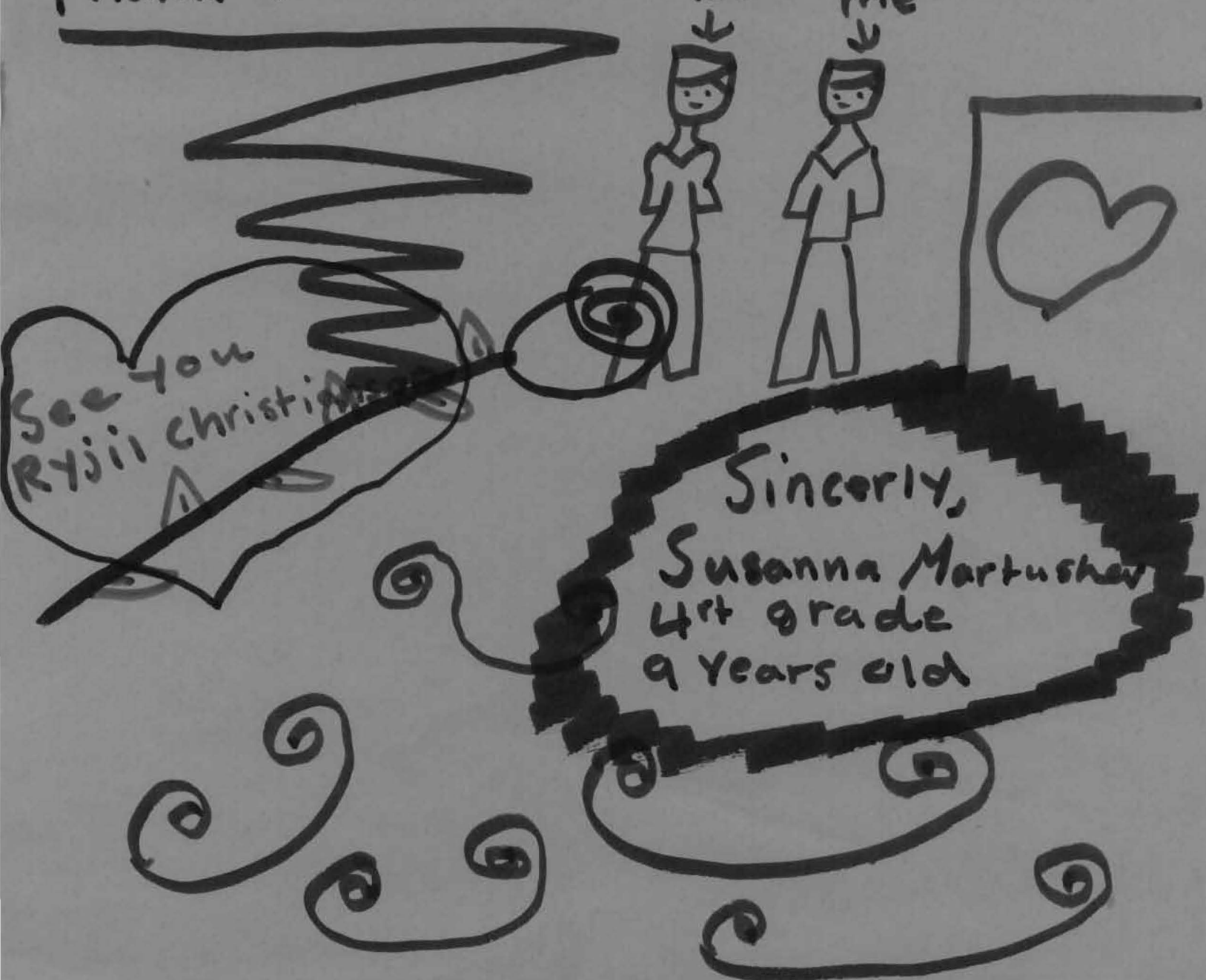
I liked the live fish in a aquarium. It would be fun to have a job like that. It would be fun because I could see all those things every day. I would like to touch one of the skeletons. The marine Gallery is fun with the puppets. I saw ashes of some volcanoes that blew up years ago. There was a awesome globe that I really liked. I hope you people don't take it away.

From,
Isiah

Dear Ryjil christanson,

Thank you for letting us to go to the Pratt Museum.
I Love the Pratt Museum so much. I think you are a King
Person. You let us do anything we wanted. My favorite
Part was in the marine gallery. The worst Part was
identifying because I'm really bad at this. I like everything
in the Pratt Museum. And I'm thanking the staff too.
Do you like working at the Pratt Museum? I think it is so
neat. How do you even keep it neat?


Thank you so much you



Dear Pratt Museum,

I really liked researching the cards. It was fun seeing the crab, seastar and seaurchin in the aquarium. I liked timing my partner when she put on the survival suit in 16 seconds. It was cool how you guys hung up those animals on the ceiling. The movie was funny how the people danced. I saw a huge dead crab when we went down the stairs.

P.S.

I had a lot of fun! 
I hope we will come again.

Sencirly,

Rosie Reuter 

Dear Representative Seaton,

As a citizen of Homer, I encourage you to support these projects in the capital budget.

- The **proposed natural gas pipeline** will enhance the economy of the whole lower Kenai Peninsula.
- **Karen Hornaday Park** improvements are much needed. The community of Homer and outlying areas utilize this park for many activities. The park needs major work to continue to serve the community.
- Expanding **Homer's Deep Water Dock** is another project that will grow the local economy. Homer could receive direct shipments of goods.
- The **Pratt Museum** is a local treasure. Supporting the expansion project will help to create more jobs in our community.
- The **Kachemak Bay Campus** is a vital community entity which deserves support for their much needed building.
- **Homer Community Schools** provides services to citizens all over the lower peninsula. Recreation in the winter months is an important component of a healthy community.
- Finally, please preserve the Renewable Energy Grant, which contains funding for the **Kachemak Bay Tidal Power** project. Alaska needs to continue in the direction of finding alternative sources of power.

Sincerely,

Francie Roberts

495 Mountain View, Homer, AK 99603



City of Homer

City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

phone: 907-235-3102 fax: 907-235-3148

email: wwrede@ci.homer.ak.us

April 27, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Homer to urge your support for the Homer-area projects approved for funding by the Alaska Legislature as part of the FY 2011 state capital budget.

Out of more than 50 projects identified as priorities by the City of Homer, four were included in the capital budget:

- \$4.8 million for a natural gas pipeline from Anchor Point to Homer. Natural gas in Homer has been a desire in this community for decades. The proposed project provides real hope that this wish will become a reality. In addition to providing a clean, lower-cost energy source, the project will create jobs in this area.
- \$1 million for the Homer Deep Water Dock expansion project. This project has been in the City's Capital Improvement Plan since 1989. The funding will allow us to complete feasibility and design for a project that will enable the Port of Homer to handle containerized cargo, reducing the cost of goods locally and greatly benefiting the local and regional economy.
- \$250,000 for improvements to Karen Hornaday Park. This project is strongly supported by the community, generating dozens of letters and messages and hours of volunteer time. The \$250,000 legislative appropriation is key to overall project success, as it will be used to leverage an equal amount of funding from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The City of Homer, Homer Little League, and Friends of Karen Hornaday Park are also contributing cash match to the project, which will address serious problems and provide major upgrades to the park, to the benefit of residents and visitors as well as the local economy.
- \$100,000 for the Pratt Museum's capital campaign. This money will help pay for engineering and design for a new building to house Homer's acclaimed Pratt Museum, winner of the National Award for Museum Service and one of only five accredited museums in Alaska.

We also support funding for other Homer-area projects approved by the Legislature, including \$250,000 for a new building on the UAA-KPC-Kachemak Bay Campus and \$30,000 to the Homer Foundation for community education and recreation programs.

In addition, we urge you to preserve the full \$50 million in funding for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, which will benefit Homer by providing funding for our proposed Kachemak Bay Tidal Power project.

Governor Sean Parnell
April 27, 2010
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I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities with you further.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walt Wrede". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walt" being more prominent than the last name "Wrede".

Walt Wrede
City Manager